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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 12 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you from Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, regarding the Israeli illegal acts in the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound in East Jerusalem (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Maged **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

10 February 2007

I write to express our deep concern with regard to the excavation and demolition work being carried out by the Israeli authorities near Al-Aqsa Mosque, on the road leading to Bab al-Magharibah at the Buraq Wall, the western wall of the Haram al-Aqsa (Temple Mount). Public anger is escalating at this step taken by Israel at this critical time in which numerous parties, including the United Nations, are striving to provide the appropriate climate in which to revive the peace process.

Egypt considers that Israel, as the occupying power, should be bound by all of the international resolutions on the status of Jerusalem, respect its holy places and not encroach upon its character or alter the physical features of the religious properties therein, the foremost of which is Al-Aqsa Mosque. Egypt emphasizes that any action pertaining to Al-Aqsa Mosque should be closely coordinated and agreed upon with the relevant Palestinian officials in the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Administration. Therefore, we support moves aimed at halting unilateral measures on the part of Israel in this regard.

As you may agree, the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque makes any movement inside or around it a highly sensitive issue for all Muslim peoples all over the world. Such actions on the part of Israel have a negative impact on the current efforts to create the appropriate political climate between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, for the stability of the region and to build mutual confidence between them.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboul Gheit**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 26 February 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

While the Palestinian people remained besieged, confined to a canton-like reality and literally starved, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to launch its campaign of death and destruction against the Palestinian people throughout the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli occupying forces have been conducting since yesterday, 25 February 2007, a wide-scale barbaric military aggression against the already besieged city of Nablus in the northern West Bank, killing one civilian and injuring scores of others in addition to arresting tens of Palestinians, demolishing homes and converting others to military outposts while keeping the families living there hostage, forbidden to move or contact the outside world. Israeli occupying forces have even converted Jamal Abdel Nasser School in the old city into a detention centre. Among the detained is journalist Nayef Breik, who owns the local Sanabel TV station. Israeli occupying forces broke into the station, arrested Mr. Breik and confiscated transmission and other equipment.

Nablus residents woke up on 25 February to the wide-scale incursion, which began with Israeli occupying forces invading Palestinian airwaves and reading out the names of who they called were "wanted" Palestinians. Soon after, the entire city was placed under a curfew, confining tens of thousands of residents to their homes. The Israeli occupying forces also obstructed the movement of medical crews.

Today, 26 February 2007, Israeli occupying forces shot dead 42-year-old Anan Al-Tibi while he was inside his home and injured his son Ashraf, 22 years old. The heinous and brutal killing is but one example of the conduct of Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians and the utter disregard they have for the value of Palestinian life.

Elsewhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israeli occupying forces continue to conduct wide-scale arrest campaigns throughout the West Bank while

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maintaining the stranglehold on the Gaza Strip and its 1.4 million residents. Additionally, illegal Israeli settlers continue to carry out attacks against Palestinian civilians and their properties, especially in Hebron. Their impunity is fortified by the turning of a blind eye by the Israeli occupying forces to these attacks, the damage they cause and the terror they spread.

Israel, the occupying Power, also continues to shun international law and relevant United Nations resolutions with regard to its continued construction of the illegal separation wall in the West Bank. Today, 26 February 2007, Israeli occupying forces demolished 10 homes near Tulkarem to make way for the illegal wall. These actions are utterly rejected and are in contravention of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law. Additionally, they are in grave violation of the advisory opinion of 9 July 2004 of the International Court of Justice and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15.

The Government of Israel also continues its campaign to create a new demographic composition in Occupied East Jerusalem and to alter its cultural and religious heritage through the ongoing demolition and diggings at Bab Al-Magharibeh. These provocative actions, which latest reports indicate are continuing unabated under the cover of night, clearly demonstrate the intransigence of the Israeli Government and its persistence in defying the will of the international community and violating international law and United Nations resolutions.

It must be noted that the historical corridor, which the Israeli occupying authorities now plan to demolish, was wilfully neglected by the Israeli occupying authorities, which did not allow any restoration works despite repeated Waqf warnings of the corridor's deteriorating condition. Additionally, the demolition of the historical corridor at this gate, which is part of the Islamic Waqf, is intended to erase an important part of the occupied city's Muslim heritage to create new facts on the ground by expanding the square at the Western Wall (Al-Buraq) of Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is important to recall that the expansion of this square in the past came at the expense of Palestinian homes in the Old City, which have been illegally demolished by the Israeli occupying forces since 1967.

Moreover, the Israeli occupying forces continue to bar Palestinian worshippers from entering Al-Haram Al-Sharif and illegally detain scores of Palestinians protesting Israeli actions in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. On Saturday, 24 February 2007, a 60-year-old Palestinian woman from Beit Hanina in Occupied East Jerusalem, Yusra Al-Rijbi, died of her critical head wounds inflicted by the Israeli occupying forces during demonstrations two weeks ago protesting Israeli excavation and demolition works in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The Security Council has adopted 16 resolutions regarding the city of Jerusalem, and repeatedly declared that all measures and arrangements taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including legislative and administrative ones, which aim at changing the legal status, demographic composition and character of the city, are null and void and without any legal validity whatsoever. Furthermore, the Council has also repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem. Hence, the Council must now assume its responsibility in ensuring Israel's adherence to these resolutions and its obligations as an occupying Power.

Obviously, Israel, the occupying Power, is crossing all boundaries by intensifying its campaign of siege, imposed starvation, murder, judaization of East Jerusalem and construction of the illegal separation wall as well as the expansion of illegal settlements, amid the inability of the Security Council to stop the Israeli violations of international law and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

We call on all parties to take immediate measures urgently to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, ends its destructive campaign and fulfils its responsibilities in accordance with international law. Additionally, we call on the international community, particularly the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to assume their responsibilities in ensuring that Israel respects the de jure applicability of that Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and adheres to its provisions. In this context, it is imperative for the Council to take urgent measures to confront these Israeli actions to ensure respect for international law and to prevent further escalation of the situation in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 277 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 February 2007 (A/ES-10/379-S/2007/75), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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1 March 2007

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 1 March 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Since our last letter dated 26 February 2007, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to suffer the brunt of Israeli military aggression. Israeli military incursions and extrajudicial executions have continued unabated in the occupied West Bank, namely in Nablus and Jenin. Meanwhile, the residents of those besieged cities continue to suffer from the destruction and terror that those military attacks cause.

Today, 1 March 2007, the Israeli occupying forces carried out an incursion into the Al-Fara'a refugee camp, north-east of Nablus city, during which they arrested three residents and injured at least four others. The incursion included house-to-house searches and the surrounding of a number of other homes and mosques. Nearby, in the villages of Tammoun and Al-Yamoun, a tight siege was imposed by the Israeli occupying forces. So far, at least two Palestinians have been detained in Al-Yamoun village. The Israeli occupying forces also raided today the city of Qalqilya and the town of Barqeen south-west of Jenin.

These incursions and detention campaigns follow the extrajudicial execution of three Palestinians in the West Bank city of Jenin on 28 February 2007, at the hands of an Israeli occupying forces undercover unit that infiltrated the city in the early morning hours.

In parallel, there is an ongoing wide-scale Israeli incursion into the city of Nablus in which at least 150 military vehicles and bulldozers have been used. So far, one Palestinian civilian has been killed in Nablus and at least 30 others injured, while Israeli occupying forces have detained family members of Palestinians they claim are "wanted". The occupying forces have also imposed siege to the city's three hospitals and converted a number of schools in the city into interrogation centres.

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These outright acts of military aggression are going hand-in-hand with other aggressive Israeli plans and actions that are chipping away at any hope of finding a political horizon and, in turn, a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as they aim to create seemingly irreversible facts on the ground that jeopardize the possibility of a two-State solution.

In East Jerusalem, Israeli occupying authorities are drawing up plans to build a new illegal settlement, comprising 11,000 housing units near Qalandia, north of Jerusalem. This is one of the most outrageous attempts by far of the Israeli occupation to further complicate the situation on the ground in or around occupied East Jerusalem, which continues to be economically choked by closure and under threat culturally.

In addition, recent statements by the Israeli Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, cast doubts on the Israeli commitment to a peaceful settlement, a two-State solution, and the road map. Ms. Livni has declared that Israel cannot accept the Arab peace initiative in its current form, adding that the 1967 borders of the future Palestinian State pose a problem for Israel. This statement is indicative of the lack of commitment and goodwill on the part of the current Israeli Government towards the peace process. At the same time, it reflects the degree of impunity which Israel, the occupying Power, exercises towards its international commitments given the lack of accountability it has enjoyed in the international arena.

We are gravely alarmed by the overall situation on the ground which, taking into consideration the plans and statements made by senior Israeli officials, project a reality in which chances for peace and reaching an end to the conflict are seriously diminished rather than encouraged. Furthermore, given the unwarranted and barbaric aggression by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian cities in the West Bank and the continued siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, which has driven the majority of its 1.4 million residents to the brink of starvation, it is incumbent upon the international community to assume its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people and to uphold international law. The international community, particularly the Security Council, must intervene to put an end to the Israeli aggression on the ground immediately and to ensure Israeli compliance with its commitments and obligations vis-à-vis relevant international resolutions and initiatives because continued inaction on the part of the international community will only encourage more impunity and increased tension in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 278 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 February 2007 (A/ES-10/381-S/2007/109), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that since 4 January 2007, at least 13 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,461. The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 1 March 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Monday, 15 January 2007, to Wednesday, 28 February 2007)

Monday, 15 January 2007

1. Moussa Qarmout
2. Kamal Khedr (age 19)

Thursday, 1 February 2007

3. Taha Mohammad Al-Hanjalawi (age 17)
4. Amer Bassam Kalbouna
5. Wa'el Awad

Friday, 2 February 2007

6. Khaldoun Shuman
7. Mohammad Abu Arab

Tuesday, 13 February 2007

8. Mohammad Shakir Al-Sa'eedi

Saturday, 24 February 2007

9. Yusra Al-Rijbi (age 60)

Monday, 26 February 2007

10. Anan Al-Tibi

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

11. Ashraf Al-Sa'adi
12. Mohammad Abu Naa'sa
13. Alaa' Braiki

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,461.